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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. ANALYTICAL PRESENTATION OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

B. Promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice

1. Suggestions by States for the promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States

47 bis. The Netherlands reported, that, partly on its initiative, the Permanent Court of Arbitration had been given observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations. This initiative was part of the policy of the Netherlands to encourage the reactivation of the Court and the International Bureau and to modernize both institutions. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had carried out a study on the application of rules of procedure in recent inter-State arbitration proceedings. Moreover, the Netherlands Advisory Committee on Problems of International Law had stressed the need for wider acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. It suggested that the Secretary-General be empowered to set up a committee of five international law experts who could consult on behalf of the Secretary-General on the issue of compulsory jurisdiction with the States Members of the United Nations, with a view to encouraging those States which had not yet done so to accept the Court's jurisdiction, and States which had entered far-reaching reservations to withdraw or limit them. The committee should consist of prominent international lawyers with considerable experience in the administration of justice at the international level, such as members or former members of the International Law Commission or former members of the International Court of Justice. It was further stated that annual reports of the committee of experts to the Sixth Committee might also be useful.

C. Encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification

59 bis. The Netherlands observed that, within the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it had taken an initiative for the review of the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Together with Italy, it had introduced a draft resolution which had been approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO. Moreover, two meetings of experts on the question had already taken place in the Netherlands.

D. Encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law

2. Promotion of the teaching of international law for students and teachers at schools and at higher education levels and international cooperation for that purpose

75 bis. The Netherlands observed that the Nieuwsbrief Volkenrecht (International Law Newsletter) published by the Asser Institute contained an annual overview of the range of courses on international law which could be followed at universities in the Netherlands. Moreover, as part of a five-year project, 30 university institutions had been given a subscription to the Netherlands International Law Review, the Netherlands Yearbook of International Law and the Leiden Journal of International Law. The project was funded by the Directorate General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was pointed out that the Leiden Journal of International Law published regularly a schedule of moot courts organized in the Netherlands and abroad in which students from the Netherlands could take part. The Netherlands also observed that various of that country universities maintained regular contact with universities in third-world countries, particularly as regards student and teacher exchanges. The Department of International Law at the University of Groningen, for example, maintained links with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, the same department at Leiden University with Ghana, the University of Limburg with the African Centre on Human Rights and Development Studies in Banjul, Gambia, Leiden University with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and Amsterdam University with Ethiopia. In addition, there were various opportunities for students from developing countries to participate in courses on international law in the Netherlands. Institutions offering such courses included the Institute of Social Studies and the Hague Academy of International Law. Funding was available to cover the costs of accommodation. Furthermore, in recent years, the Asian Yearbook of International Law had been published twice through funding by the Directorate General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. Organization of and participation in international and regional seminars and symposia for experts on international law

86 bis. The Netherlands pointed out that, in 1995 and onwards, a number of international law colloquia would be held in that country, focusing on the issue of the settlement of disputes within a number of branches of international law. The first colloquium would address the settlement of space law disputes; following meetings would deal with the international law of the sea, economic law, humanitarian law, environmental law and human rights. Moreover, the Netherlands Association for International Law would, in 1995, organize for the third time a conference at The Hague in cooperation with the American Society of International Law.

5. Publication of the practice of States and international and regional organizations in the field of international law

125 bis. The Netherlands reported that, within the framework of the Council of Europe, it had drawn attention to the practice followed by Member States in the area of State succession and issues of recognition, with a view to the preparation of a publication on such practice. 1/

6. Publication by States and international organizations of international legal instruments and legal studies

132 bis. The Netherlands reported that, to mark the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Leiden Journal of International Law was publishing a series of books which focused on the settlement of disputes. The first two publications of the series, Reflections on International Dispute Settlement, and The Flame Rekindled: New Hopes for International Arbitration, had already been published. The third, entitled The World Court - Its Future Role in a Changing International Society, was in preparation and was expected to come out in 1995.

7. Wider publication of the judgements and advisory opinions of other international courts and tribunals and summaries thereof

143 bis. The Netherlands reported that the Nederlands Juristenblad, which gave weekly overviews of case-law relevant to that country, now also devoted attention to the case-law of the International Court of Justice, in addition to its regular reporting of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights.

Notes

1/ See also A/49/323, para. 126.